

REMARKS

Claims 1- 7 remain in the application for consideration of the Examiner.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and following remarks.

Turning now to the art rejections, Claims 1, 2, 5, and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Chuang; Claims 1-3 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Masuda; and Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Chuang.

Chuang does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention including the opposing niche partially intersecting with the first niche such that an aperture in the lead frame is defined by the intersecting portions.

Chuang does not show intersecting portions.

Masuda does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention including the first niche in the lead frame surface and an opposing niche in the opposing lead frame surface the opposing niche partially intersecting with the first niche such that an aperture in the lead frame is defined by the intersecting portions.

Similar to Chuang, Masuda does not disclose intersecting leads.

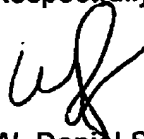
In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

While it is believed that the instant response places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is

respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Texas Instruments Incorporated, Account No. 20-0668.

Respectfully submitted,



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